

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00137 130853Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 080048

R 100815Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 826

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0137

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES

1. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT SOME 20 MILITARY OFFICERS WERE ARRESTED ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO FOR UNSPECIFIED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY, HIGHEST RANKING OF WHICH WAS RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL AND FORMER MAYOR OF BAGHDAD HASSAN MUSTAFA. ALL HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN EXECUTED. INDIAN EMBOFF TOLD ME ARRESTS APPARENTLY CONNECTED WITH AIRPLANE CRASH AT HABBANIYYAH AF BASE WEST OF BAGHDAD. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT IT WAS REASON FOR LARGE CEREMONY ON MARCH 2 AT WHICH PRESIDENT BAKR HONORED HEROES OF OCTOBER WAR AND RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN RECEIVED AF MEDAL.

2. ALTHOUGH PERHAPS UNRELATED, ON EVENINGS OF MARCH 5, 6, AND 7 PRESIDENT BAKR SPOKE ON TV FOR THREE HOURS EACH  
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NIGHT READING TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS OF 8TH BAATH CONFERENCE

HELD LAST JANUARY. SINCE NOT EVEN MOST DEVOTED BAATHI  
COULD HAVE SAT THROUGH ALL TEN HOURS, APPEARANCE APPARENTLY  
DESIGNED FOR OTHER PURPOSES SUCH AS TO DEMONSTRATE PRESIDENT'S  
GOOD HEALTH. (IN FACT, IT APPEARED FROM PRESIDENT'S MANNER  
THAT MARATHON HAD BEEN VIDEOTAPED.)

3. RUMORS OF LARGE SCALE CABINET CHANGES CONTINUE TO  
CIRCULATE BUT ARE TOO NUMEROUS AND UNSUBSTANTIATED TO  
ENNUMERATE.

4. COMMENT: TOGETHER WITH KURDISH DENOUEMENT AND IRANIAN  
BORDER CLASHES, ABOVE INDICATES THAT OIL MONEY HAS NOT  
YET SUCCEEDED IN CHANGING IRAQI POLITICAL LIFE.  
LOWRIE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARRESTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BAGHDA00137  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BAGHDAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabywb.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES  
**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, IZ, BAATH PARTY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005